

1,269!

by Wayne Goff

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**1,269!** That's the number of animal sacrifices offered annually by Israel's priests for the nation of Israel. This includes two lambs offered daily, two more offered every Sabbath, and the rest offered on the special feast days. Do you think just maybe Israel understood that "without shedding of blood there is no remission" (**Hebrews 9:22**). So how does this affect you and me now?

## One Sacrifice Forever

The Hebrew writer **emphasizes repeatedly** the fact that Jesus' death on the cross of Calvary was done **once**, and **only once**, for forgiveness of **all** the sins of **all** the people who might **ever** come to Him for aid!

*"Who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, **for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself**" **Hebrews 7:27**.*

*"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood **He entered the Most Holy Place once for all**, having obtained **eternal redemption**" **Hebrews 9:12**.*

*"He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, **once at the end of the ages**, He has appeared to put away sin **by the sacrifice of Himself**," **Hebrews 9:26**.*

*"So Christ was **offered once** to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation," **Hebrews 9:28**.*

*"By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**," **Hebrews 10:10**.*

So why the repetition of this beautiful truth? Could it be that the **Jewish mindset** which was accustomed to seeing thousands of animal sacrifices yearly, would have a difficult time accepting one sacrifice for all sins forever? It would seem to be the case to me anyway.

Perhaps the faithful Jew would come to the cross of Jesus and say: "That's it? That's all?" The Hebrew writer is telling them over and over again — **YES**. The blood of Christ is **the real thing** — the animal sacrifices only foreshadowed Him!

## The Cross Of Christ

I believe, in time, the faithful Jew came to **realize** and **understand** the greatness of the cross of Christ. After all, how many animals equal a human life? And how much more valuable is that human life when it belongs to the very Son of God? Perhaps we Gentiles have never struggled with these things, but we should understand always that without the blood of Jesus Christ we would have no hope! Christianity is not a **bloodless** religion, it is a **blood-filled** religion. It is the blood of Jesus Christ — powerful, efficient, complete.

*"For this is **My blood of the new covenant**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins," **Matthew 26:28**. Every Lord's Day when we partake of the "**fruit of the vine**" we should see with the eye of faith the blood of Jesus Christ — His life drained from Him; His blood oozing from His head, His hands and His feet; that awful spear-pierced side that caused that crimson flood which absolutely guaranteed that Jesus died for our sins (**Jn. 19:34**). "And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced"" **John 19:37**.*

Every time we boldly come to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need (**Heb. 4:16**) we should remember that the forgiveness we receive is **free** but not **cheap**! It cost Jesus Christ His life, His blood. *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin**," **1 John 1:7**.*

## Never Forget!

*"Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him,'" **John 6:53–56**.*

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